

REMARKS

Applicant recognizes with appreciation that Examiner indicates that Claims 15 – 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 6 to include the allowable features of Claims 15 and 16, respectively. Claims 15 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 3 – 6, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takagaki (US Application Publication No. 2002/0065066), hereinafter Takagaki, in view of Sood (US 6,697,632), hereinafter Sood.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been overcome in view of the Claims 1 and 6 as presently amended. In the amended Claims 1 and 6, the allowable features of Claims 15 and 16 have been added, respectively. Thus Claims 1 and 6 are allowable. Claims 3 – 5 and 10 – 11 are also allowable due to their dependency on Claims 1 or 6.

Therefore, the newly presented claims are not unpatentable over Takagaki in view of Sood and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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